

As an initial matter, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for taking the time to conduct a telephone interview on August 7, 2002, with Applicant's undersigned representative.

The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. Applicant has canceled these claims, thereby obviating this rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 2 to 6 and 8 to 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Murata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,150,053). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant has amended dependent claims 6 and 12 to recite that the compound is selected from nitride compounds, sulfide compounds, chloride compounds and fluoride compounds. Such compounds are neither taught nor suggested by Murata. It is the undersigned's understanding that the Examiner agreed during the telephone interview that this amendment would overcome the rejection over Murata. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection over Murata be withdrawn.

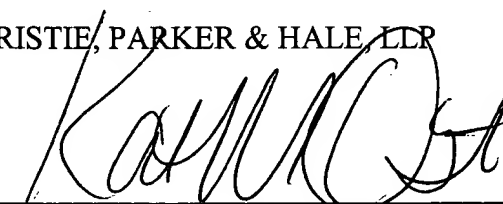
Applicant has also added new independent claim 13. Claim 13 recites that the compound is selected from calcium oxalate monohydrate, B_2O_3 and BF_3 . Murata does not teach or suggest any of the compounds recited in claim 13. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 is similarly allowable over Murata.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that pending claims 2, 4, 6 to 8, 10, 12 and 13, as amended, are in condition for allowance, and a timely indication of allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By



Kathleen M. Olster
Reg. No. 42,052
626/795-9900

KMO/edb